

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01 EUR-25 /152 W

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O R 261457Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0292

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8654

SB O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ATTITUDE OF LABOR ALIGNMENT LEADERSHIP TOWARD MID EAST
SITUATION

SUMMARY: MRS MEIR AND DAYAN, MEETING LAST EVENING WITH
LABOR ALIGNMENT LEADERSHIP, SAID IN EFFECT THAT US ACTION IN
PRODUCING RES 338 AND ISRAEL'S RAPID ACCEPTANCE OF IT
WERE WISE MOVES MILITARILY AND POLITICALLY, IN TERMS OF BOTH
PRESERVING INDISPENSABLE US SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND SEEKING
SETTLEMENT IN REGION. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, LEADERSHIP WAS
FULLY SATISFIED AND SHARES MRS MEIR'S PERSONAL TRUST IN
PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY. PRESENT MOMENT MAY BE MORE
AUSPICIOUS FOR MOVING GOI TOWARD MID EAST NEGOTIATIONS
THAN MAY BE CASE A FEW WEEKS FROM NOW. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ADDITION TO VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUS CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY
STARTING AT SIX IN MORNING, MRS MEIR CONVENED COMBINED
MEETING LAST EVENING OF LABOR ALIGNMENT LEADERSHIP AND
ALIGNMENT KNESSET FACTION. SHE AND DAYAN SPOKE.

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2. MRS MEIR REPORTEDLY SAID:

- A. ISRAEL HAD EMERGED FROM GREAT DANGER IN CONNECTION WITH US-SOVIET CONFRONTATION OVER ISSUE OF INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET TROOPS IN MID EAST
- B. DIRE CONSEQUENCES COULD HAVE ARISEN IF ISRAEL HAD NOT ACCEPTED CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL
- C. US AID TO ISRAEL HAD BEEN EXCELLENT; GOI ACCEPTANCE OF US INITIATIVE IN AUGUST 1970 HAD MADE ISRAEL'S DEFENSIVE BUILDUP OF PAST THREE YEARS POSSIBLE
- D. CURRENTLY SOVIET THREATS WERE BRUTAL AND WERE EVEN GRAVER THAN THOSE LEVELLED AGAINST ISRAEL BY BULGANIN IN 1956
- E. NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES WERE NOT YET IN SIGHT.

3. DAYAN REPORTEDLY SAID:

- A. ISRAEL COULD NOT AFFORD TO JEOPARDIZE US SUPPORT BY PREEMPTIVE MILITARY ACTION AT BEGINNING OF WAR
- B. IF ISRAEL HAD TURNED DOWN CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL, IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN ON GREATER DANGER THAN IT COULD AFFORD
- C. SPEED OF US-USSR INITIATIVE OCTOBER 20-11 HAD CAUSED DIFFICULTIES IN ISRAELI-US RELATIONS, BUT WEIGHED AGAINST THEM WERE TREMENDOUS MATERIAL ADVANTAGES FOR ISRAEL; US WAS PERHAPS ISRAEL'S ONLY REMAINING SUPPORT AGAINST ARABS
- D. ISRAELIS HAD TO REALIZE THAT FOR POLITICAL REASONS IDF COULD NOT INFLECT DESTRUCTION OF ARAB ARMIES AND THEIR WEAPONS
- E. WAR HAD LEFT ISRAEL IN GOOD STRATEGIC POSITION AND HAD LEFT ARABS INCAPABLE OF RENEWING ATTACK ON ISRAEL
- F. ISRAEL COULD NOT ACHIEVE POLITICAL RESOLUTION OF MID EAST CONFLICT BY OCCUPYING ARAB CAPITALS, AND GOI HAD NO INTENTION OF GOING THIS ROUTE.

4. WE NOTE THAT HAIM ZADOK, CHAIRMAN OF KNESSET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOLD US TODAY THAT MRS MEIR'S REFERENCE TO BRUTAL SOVIET THREATS (SEE ABOVE) DID NOT MEAN THAT GOI HAD RECEIVED ANY SOVIET MESSAGES THROUGH THIRD PARTIES ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO ISRAEL.

5. OUR ESTIMATE OF ATTITUDE OF LABOR LEADERSHIP YESTERDAY AND TODAY, BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH ZADOK AND SOME NONE-OFFICIAL OBSERVERS, IS AS FOLLOWS.

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6. BEFORE LAST EVENING'S MEETING, THERE HAD BEEN UNDERCURRENT OF DISSATISFACTION OVER FACT THAT US DID NOT CONSULT GOI IN ADVANCE OVER TERMS OF UNSC RES 338. THERE ALSO HAD BEEN SOME CONCERN OVER RAPID CABINET DECISION TO ACCEPT RES, WHICH HAD INVOLVED ALMOST NO ISRAELI POLITICAL CONSULTATION.

7. MRS MEIR AND DAYAN CARRIED THE DAY WITH THEIR PRESENTATIONS. IT IS CLEAR THAT MRS MEIR PERSONALLY TRUSTS PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY. LABOR LEADERSHIP SHARES THIS TRUST. IT IS NOW ACCEPTED THAT BOTH US INITIATIVE AND GOI ACCEPTANCE OF IT WERE SOUND. THERE LINGERS AT THE SAME TIME HOPE THAT ISRAEL DID NOT CREATE UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT IN US-ISRAELI RELATIONS BY RAPIDLY ACCEPTING RES 338 AS FAIT ACCOMPLI.

8. BASED ON INFO AVAILABLE TO US, IT APPEARS THAT FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS OF YESTERDAY, LABOR ALIGNMENT LEADERSHIP WIDELY SUPPORTS GOI POSITIONIN HAVING FOLLOWD US LEAD IN VARIOUS INITIATIVE TAKEN SO FAR, IN AND OUTSIDE UN CONTEXT, TO STOP WAR. FURTHERMORE, LEADERSHIP IS WILLING TO GRANT POSSIBILITY THAT NOW,SOMEWHERE, US WILL BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATING PROCESS. AT SAME TIME, THERE IS CERTAINLY NO MOOD OF OPTIMISM THAT SOLUTION TO MID EAST CONFLICT MAY BE IN SIGHT.

9. COMMENT: AS I SEE SITUATION, ELEMENTS ARE PRESENT AT THIS MOMENT WHICH MIGHT MAKE OUR JOB OF LEADING ISRAEL INTO DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS EASIER TODAY THAN THIS MAY PROVE A FEW WEEKS FROM NOW.
KEATING

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